February 14, 2026

An Open Letter: A Request for the Voynich Manuscript's Folio 78v Multi Spectral Imaging

To the Curators and Imaging Specialists of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University,

I write to you as an independent researcher working on the textual, linguistic, and iconographic structure of the manuscript commonly known as the Voynich Manuscript (Beinecke MS 408). As part of this research, I examined the iconographic features of folio 78v.

Recent analysis suggests that folio 78v contains iconographic elements consistent with known representations of the Medicine Buddha from Tibetan Vajrayana Buddhism. It raises a legitimate scholarly question whose resolution requires access to imaging data beyond the standard digital facsimile. Specifically, multispectral imaging - already performed on portions of Beinecke MS 408 - would allow researchers to determine whether underlying line work, erased pigment, or faded iconographic details are present on folio 78v that are not visible in standard photography.

Because Yale has previously conducted multispectral imaging on selected folios of the manuscript, and because such imaging is now a standard tool in manuscript studies, I respectfully request that the Beinecke Library release the multispectral imaging data for folio 78v, or, if such data has not yet been produced, that the folio be included in the next round of multispectral analysis. The scholarly value of this data extends beyond any single interpretive hypothesis: multispectral imaging can clarify pigment layering, reveal erased or overwritten elements, and provide crucial evidence for understanding the manuscript’s production, transmission, and cultural context.

The Voynich Manuscript is a globally significant artifact whose study benefits from transparency, open access, and the collaborative efforts of researchers across disciplines. Making the multispectral data for folio 78v publicly available would support ongoing academic work, enable independent verification of emerging hypotheses, and contribute to the broader mission of the Beinecke Library to facilitate research through responsible stewardship of its collections.

I submit this request in the spirit of scholarly inquiry and with deep respect for the Beinecke’s long standing commitment to accessibility and academic engagement. I would be grateful for the opportunity to consult the multispectral data for folio 78v, or to learn whether such imaging can be scheduled in the near future.

Thank you for your time, your stewardship of this extraordinary manuscript, and your continued support of the research community.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jessica Scott Dunn

Author, *The Voynich Manuscript: The Cipher and The Compendium*

Reinterpreting Haoma/Soma: Catha edulis (khat) as the Sacred Plant of Zoroastrianism through the Lens of the Voynich Manuscript

https://independent.academia.edu/TheJessicaScott

https://www.thevoynichmanuscriptcompendium.com

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